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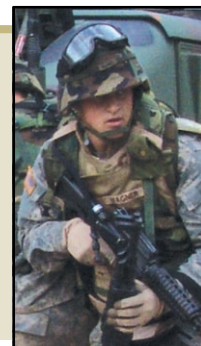
**Giessen Commissaries**  
Commissaries in Giessen and Friedberg have no plans to alter or reduce services. See page 18.



**All-Army champ**  
Rebekah Moore, from Hanau, represented the Army at the Armed Forces softball championships. See page 27.



**Mountain Village**  
Baumholder's Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain Village offers Soldiers the best in MOUT training. See page 12.



# Herald Union



Vol. IX, No. 2

Serving the military communities of the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen

Oct. 26, 2006



Photo by Dennis Johnson

## Homecoming across Hessen

Alisa McClearn, captain of the Hanau High School cheerleading squad, reacts enthusiastically as the Hanau team scores Oct. 14 during their homecoming game against Sigonella High School. Turn to pages 16-17 for more homecoming photos from across U. S. Army Garrison Hessen.



## Spring forward, fall back

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Oct. 28. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. Oct. 29.

## Anthrax vaccine program resumes

### Affects U.S. Central Command, Korea

The Department of Defense announced today a resumption of the mandatory Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program for military personnel, emergency-essential DoD civilians and contractors, based on defined geographic areas or roles.

For the most part, mandatory vaccinations are limited to military units designated for homeland bioterrorism defense and to U.S. forces assigned to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and Korea.

The under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness will issue instructions to the military services for resuming the mandatory vaccination

program within 30-60 days.

"The anthrax vaccine will protect our troops from another threat — a disease that will kill, caused by a bacteria that already has been used as a weapon in America, and that terrorists openly discuss," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

The policy also allows personnel previously immunized against anthrax, who are no longer deployed to higher threat areas, to receive follow-up vaccine doses and booster shots on a voluntary basis.

Under the voluntary vaccination policy, implemented during the period of a court injunction in 2005, the voluntary acceptance rate was about 50 percent.

**See Anthrax on page 4**

### Celebrating Halloween

## Safety tips unmasked

By Karl Weisel  
and Susan Huseman  
U.S. Army Garrison Hessen  
Public Affairs Office

Whether your children are dressed as witches, goblins or superheroes this Halloween, make certain safety is on everyone's minds.

"Have a responsible adult escort children," said Capt. Jennifer Farrell, the Hanau Community provost marshal. Visibility is a major concern, she said, and recommends all trick or treaters use flashlights.

Farrell also suggests, "If the costume includes a fake knife, gun or sword make sure it looks extremely fake. And don't let kids bicycle, rollerblade or skateboard."

Communities in the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen will observe trick-or-  
**See Halloween on page 4**



Photo by Susan Huseman

**Make sure your Halloween costume is not so long that you trip over it.**

## Feedback: What's your favorite holiday and why?



**Spc. Jenny Wall**  
**USAG Giessen**

My favorite holiday is Halloween because there is lots of candy, costumes and parties."



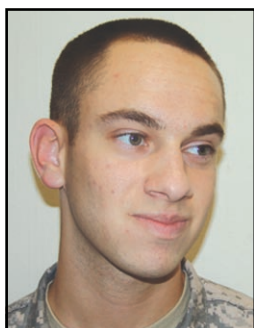
**Deandrea McCargo**  
**Family member, USAG Giessen**

"My favorite holiday is Christmas because the entire family comes."



**Sgt. Rebekah Moore**  
**CID, Hanau Community**

"My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving because it's the one time of year you can sit with your family and be thankful for the many blessings that are given to us."



**Spc. Clinton Westover**  
**USAG Baumholder**

April Fools' Day is my favorite holiday of the year. I always pull the greatest pranks.



**Brady Anderton**  
**Family member**  
**5-7 ADA, Hanau**

Christmas. I like the decorations and presents. I want [Dora the Explorer] Diego stuff.

## Secretary of the Army on 'Army Strong'

### Soldiers' strengths unique

**By Francis J. Harvey**  
*Secretary of the Army*

For 231 years our Army has been the vanguard of freedom around the globe. Our ability to fulfill this vital role for the nation depends on each of you, and on the work you do every day. It also depends on our ability to fill the Army's ranks in the future with committed and capable volunteer Soldiers.

On Oct. 9 I announced the beginning of our effort to inform you about the Army Strong ad campaign at the Association of the United States Army Annual Symposium in Washington, D.C. The Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Pete Schoomaker, and I are confident the new Army Strong campaign captures the unique character of the Soldier. As we all know, you become a stronger person by becoming a Soldier. This is a special kind of strong

... it's Army Strong.

We will take a full 30 days to explain this campaign to help you — our Soldiers, Army civilians, family members and community champions — understand what it is and the meaning behind it. Watch the video which represents the essence of this campaign on AKO ([www.us.army.mil](http://www.us.army.mil)). The public launch (television commercials, new posters, etc.) will take place Nov. 9.

Army Strong stands for a big idea. It speaks to the truth about the U.S. Army — that Soldiers develop mental, emotional and physical strength forged through shared values, teamwork, experience and training ... that by making the decision to join the Army an individual is choosing to recognize potential strength within him or herself and develop it further ... that an individual Soldier is choosing to

take charge of his or her future and career ... that Soldiers actively choose to make a difference in their lives, their families, their communities and for their nation.

I firmly believe Army Strong is the truth. I speak often with Soldiers, as I know you also do. In different words and in different ways, over and over again, I hear the story of strength.

Gen. Schoomaker and I are asking for your full support of this important campaign. Every time you go into your community, when you walk through an airport or any other activity in your daily life, you are the most effective demonstration of Army Strong. We are asking you to represent Army Strong. We are asking you to encourage others to visit [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com) to learn more about the U.S. Army.

## Letter to the editor

### Be careful with phone companies

I just wanted to pass along some information about something that happened to my family upon our PCS move to the States. When we had our home phone service turned on at the beginning of August, we chose an international calling plan where we could call Germany

for 22 cents a minute. When we got our first bill, we were charged over \$1,500. The company charged us over \$4 per minute for each call to Germany. When we called the phone company they said that we should have called them and made sure the international calling plan had been activated before we used it. Later, when

we spoke to friends at Ft. Hood, they said they ran into the exact same problem.

I don't think it is fair, especially for Soldiers, to be hit with expenses like this. At the very least I am hoping to let everyone know to be careful in this regard when PCSing.

**Kevin Hoy**  
**Corpus Christi, Texas**

## Retiree Corner: Online gravesite locator

Maps of cemeteries, including burial sections, have been added to the Veterans Affairs online gravesite locator at <http://gravelocator.com.va.gov>. The maps can be accessed from home computers and at national cemetery



kiosks.

This addition builds upon the online feature that permits family members to find the cemetery in which their loved ones are buried. The program makes it easier to find the exact grave location in all national cem-

eteries and some state veterans cemeteries. The VA also added to its database the mostly private cemeteries in which 1.9 million veterans were buried with VA grave markers. Plans are in place to add the graves of veterans' gravesites in state veterans' cemeteries to this database. The database contains over 5 million listings.

## Herald Union masthead

The *Herald Union* is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for members of the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen. Contents are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content is the responsibility of the USAG Hessen Public Affairs Office. No payment will be made for contributions. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. This is a biweekly publication printed by AdvantiPro. Our office is in Building 1205 on Hanau's Yorkhof Kaserne. Circulation is 10,550 copies. **For commercial and classified advertising rates** call Susanne Daugill at civ (0631) 303 355 or email [suzie@advantipro.de](mailto:suzie@advantipro.de). **Address:** USAG Hessen, Herald Union, Unit 20193 Box 0001, APO AE 09165-0001; **Telephone:** mil 323-3257; civ (06181) 180-3257; **Fax:** mil 323-2149, civ (06181) 180-2149; **Email:** [104heraldunion@104asg.army.mil](mailto:104heraldunion@104asg.army.mil); **Home page:** [www.usaghessen.eur.army.mil](http://www.usaghessen.eur.army.mil).

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## 'Phishers' lure USAREUR email users

By Dave Melancon  
USAREUR Public Affairs Office

Email users beware; criminals are fishing around in your office or home computer trying to hook personal information.

Last month, according to the USAREUR Information Assurance and Computer Security Office, several U.S. Army, Europe Soldiers and employees received a baited email message claiming a nonexistent "Defense Forum" account had expired and that personal information was needed immediately to keep the account active.

The message, which targeted computer professionals, included two disguised links to seemingly legitimate websites that would allegedly reestablish the lapsed account.

But the bait was fishy; the links connected to ".com" (business) and ".ca" (Canadian) Internet domain endings, a common ploy that failed to lure the USAREUR information technology pros.

According to IASSURE, this was a typical "phishing" attack.

Phishing attacks, which can be disguised as official emails, instant messages, pop-up advertisements or business-related phone calls, attempt to trick victims into giving away sensitive information, such as credit card or Social Security numbers, personal identification numbers or passwords.

Phishers try to acquire the information by masquerading as a legitimate organization or business.

The fake websites may closely resemble a legitimate business or organization's Web pages, but in reality, the victim is visiting a website of the phisher's choosing.

Once they reel in some personal or financial data, phishers can establish fraudulent bank accounts, obtain loans or conduct other business in the victim's name.

While some phishers shotgun out fraudulent messages indiscriminately, hoping to snag victims using a particular bank or service, research has shown that they sometimes already know their target's bank or interest and then send a disguised email based on that information.

Soldiers and family members who use social networking sites frequently provide criminals with bait by publicly posting personal details about themselves.

If you receive a message that asks you for personal information, take a look for some of these clues:

- ◆ Misspelled Web addresses: changing a letter or two in a legitimate site's address is one of the most common lures in the phishers' tackle box.

- ◆ Web address with the "@" symbol in the URL.

- ◆ Use of an incorrectly formatted, "old" or obsolete email address.

Additionally, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission offers these tips to help you avoid getting hooked by a phishing scam:

- ◆ If you receive an email or pop-up message that asks for personal or fi-

nancial information: do not reply to the message; do not click on any links contained in the message; do not cut and paste any Web addresses contained in the message into your Internet browser.

Legitimate companies will not ask for personal information via email or over the phone. If you have questions about your account, close your browser and connect to the business by typing in its Web address.

- ◆ Use anti-virus software and a firewall and keep them up-to-date. Anti-virus programs can scan messages for embedded viruses and hidden scripts. Firewalls make it harder for your computer to be "seen" on the Web and also protect your computer from unauthorized intrusions.

- ◆ Never email personal or financial information.

- ◆ Review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them to check for unauthorized charges.

- ◆ Be cautious about opening files included as attachments in email messages. These files might carry viruses or executable programs or scripts that can bypass your computer's security.

If you think a phisher is trolling for your personal information, contact your office's information security officer. To learn more about phishing, visit the IASSURE site at <https://iassure.usareur.army.mil/>. To learn more about not becoming the "catch of the day," visit the FTC's website at [www.ftc.gov/bcp/menu-internet.htm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menu-internet.htm).

## News flash

### Killed in Iraq

Baumholder's 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, suffered two casualties. Cpl. Luis E. Tejada, 20, of Huntington Park, Calif., died Sept. 30 in Al Asad, Iraq, of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations in Hit. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion. Spc. Jose R. Perez, 21, of Ontario, Calif., died Oct. 18 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, from injuries suffered from enemy small arms fire. Perez was assigned to 1st Battalion. (*DoD News*)

### Memorial service set



A memorial service will be held for Portia Elizabeth Williams Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. at Wiesbaden's St. Augustine Church. Williams,

a long-time nurse and counselor at Aukamm and Hainerberg Elementary Schools and Wiesbaden Middle School, died of ovarian cancer Sept. 28. (*DoDDS-E Release*)

### AFN surveys audience

Armed Forces Network Europe is conducting an online survey of its radio audience through Nov. 19 at [www.afneurope.net](http://www.afneurope.net). Survey respondents may win one of two vacations at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch. (*AFNE Release*)

### Dental Clinic renovations

The Hanau Dental Clinic is undergoing renovations through mid-February. There will be construction throughout the facility but services will not be affected. For more information call mil 328-6565/6520.

### Give to CFC

Give to the charity of your choice during the Combined Federal Campaign Overseas through Dec. 1. Support local Family Support and Youth Programs by designating them on the CFC allotment form. Visit [www.cfcoverseas.org](http://www.cfcoverseas.org).

### Holiday mailing deadlines

To ensure mail arrives to U.S. destinations by Dec. 25, Army post officials recommend sending items from Europe by the following dates: **SAM** parcels Nov. 20, **PAL** parcels Dec. 4, **Priority** parcels, **First Class** cards and letters Dec. 11, **Express** mail Dec. 18.

## USAG Hessen honors Hispanic Heritage Month

By Susan Huseman  
U.S. Army Garrison Hessen  
Public Affairs Office

Members of U.S. Army Garrison Hessen and the Hanau Community honored the achievements of Hispanic-Americans at the Hispanic Heritage Month luncheon at the Touch of Home Cafe on Hutier Kaserne Oct. 12.

Cristina Echevarria, the Hanau Middle High School principal, was the guest speaker. "Remember, we are people from 21 countries with different histories, different cultures and different traditions living together as one race and contributing to the rich culture that makes America great," she said.

"We respect and appreciate the uniqueness of others," said Echevarria. "We have to; we have more diversity in our groups than the colors of the rainbow."

"As Americans we recognize that diversity and differences are our bless-

ings," said Echevarria. "We recognize that to value those who are different, you have to know and understand them, socialize with them and make them your friend."

"Our Hispanics contribute their skills and creativeness to our nation in the music industry and business world," she said. "They are political leaders, athletes, artists and military heroes."

Echevarria singled out Adm. Horacio Rivero, Navy pilot Everett Alvarez Jr. and Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez as distinguished Hispanic military heroes. Rivero received the Bronze Star for his role in controlling gun batteries on the USS San Juan when the Marines landed on Guadalcanal, she said.

Alvarez was the first U.S. prisoner of war captured in the Vietnam conflict while Benavidez distinguished himself in a series of valorous actions during that war. The first Hispanic G.I. Joe was modeled after him, said Echevarria.



Photo by Susan Huseman  
Cristina Echevarria, the Hanau Middle High School principal, speaks of the rich cultural heritage Hispanics have brought to America.

# News and features



## Emergency repairs

A BOS worker pumps water from a water meter room below ground where others work to repair a broken bypass pipe on New Argonner Kaserne Oct 17. The break caused a water outage for about four hours on New and Old Argonner Kasernes.

Photo by Dennis Johnson

## USAG Hessen blotter

Compiled by the U.S. Army Garrison  
Hessen Directorate of Emergency Services

### Oct. 2

**Wiesbaden:** A noncommissioned officer was charged with aggravated assault, communicating a threat and damage to private property, and a Soldier was charged with simple assault, after they were involved in a verbal altercation which turned physical.

### Oct. 3

**Wiesbaden:** A local national was charged for a traffic accident due to following too closely and striking a vehicle stopped at a traffic signal.

### Oct. 4

**Wiesbaden:** Two family members were charged with shoplifting and civilian misconduct after AAFES security personnel observed them remove a pair of sunglasses and three watches and leave the facility without paying for the items.

### Oct. 5

**Baumholder:** A Soldier was charged for being drunk on duty.

### Oct. 6

**Wiesbaden:** An officer was charged with a traffic accident due to following too closely and striking a vehicle stopped at a yield sign.

### Oct. 7

**Baumholder:** A noncommissioned officer was charged with drunken driving, traffic accident with damage to private property and following too closely after striking a car stopped at a stop sign.

### Oct. 8

**Baumholder:** A Soldier was charged with attempted suicide after an investigation revealed that he consumed pills and alcohol in an attempt to commit suicide. He was transported to the hospital where he was admitted.

### Oct. 9

**Giessen:** A Soldier was charged with assault consummated by a battery and drunk and disorderly conduct after a verbal altercation turned physical.

### Oct. 10

**Hanau:** Two Soldiers were charged with possession and use of cocaine after testing positive for the drug during a command-directed urinalysis test.

### Oct. 11

**Hanau:** A family member was charged with aggravated assault and civilian misconduct after becoming involved in a verbal altercation which turned physical. The subject struck the victim several times. The victim was treated for abrasions and lacerations.

### Oct. 12

**Wiesbaden:** A Soldier was charged with housebreaking, indecent assault and sodomy after the subject pushed the victim onto his bed and kissed her against her will after she had given him a massage in his room.

### Oct. 13

**Hanau:** A Soldier was charged with failure to pay a just debt, disobeying a lawful order of a commanding officer and speeding. The subject was stopped for speeding and a check with USAREUR vehicle registry revealed the subject owed the registry for two bounced checks.

### Oct. 14

**Giessen:** A family member was charged with fleeing the scene of a traffic accident, traffic accident with damage to private property and improper backing after the subject improperly backed up and collided with a parked vehicle. The subject then fled the scene and later reported to the MP station.

### Oct. 15

**Baumholder:** A family member was charged with misconduct under civilian personnel standards and drunken driving after she was observed sleeping in the driver's seat of her vehicle, with the engine running. Investigating Military Police detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage. She was taken to the military police station where she failed a series of field sobriety tests.

## Halloween

**Continued from page 1**  
treat hours Oct. 31 during the following times:

USAG Wiesbaden (including Dexheim) — from 4-7 p.m.

Hanau Community — from 4-8 p.m.

USAG Giessen — from 5-7 p.m.

USAG Baumholder — from 6-8 p.m.

Members of the U. S. Army Garrison Hessen Safety Office suggest that parents can ensure the safety of their children by:

✧ Planning and discussing the trick-or-treaters' route.

✧ Teach children to travel only in familiar areas.

✧ Stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well-lit and never enter a stranger's house.

✧ Pin a slip of paper with the child's name, address and phone number inside a pocket in case he or she gets separated from the group.

✧ Costumes should be made of fire-retardant materials.

✧ Costumes should not be so long that they are tripping

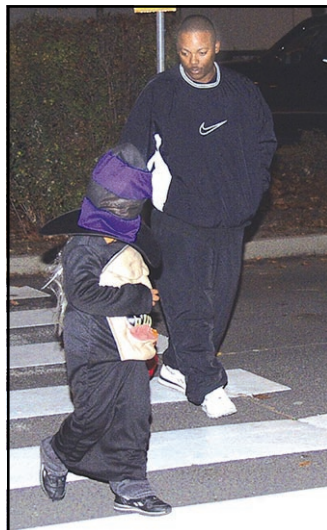


Photo by Susan Huseman

**Always make sure children use the crosswalks.**

hazards.

✧ If masks are worn, ensure they have nose and mouth openings and large eye holes.

✧ When buying Halloween makeup, check for packages containing ingredients that are labeled "made in U.S., approved color additives, laboratory tested, meets federal standards for cosmetics or non-toxic."

✧ Insist that treats be

brought home for inspection before anything is eaten.

There are also several other ways parents can help keep their young ghouls safe while out trick-or-treating:

● Set time limits on when children should return home.

● Teach children to walk facing oncoming traffic if there is no sidewalk.

● Use make-up rather than a mask, which might restrict breathing or vision, and remove any masks before crossing streets.

● Help children create costumes in which they are free to move and which don't hinder their vision.

Safety officials also urge motorists to be especially alert on Halloween.

Motorists should watch for children darting out from between parked cars and walking on streets, medians and curbs. You should also keep an eye out for children wearing dark clothing.

For more information about Halloween safety, call or visit your local Safety Office.

## Anthrax

**Continued from page 1**

"This rate of vaccination not only put the service members at risk, but also jeopardized unit effectiveness and degraded medical readiness. The threat environment and the unpredictable nature of terrorism make it necessary to include biological warfare defense as part of our force protection measures," Winkenwerder said.

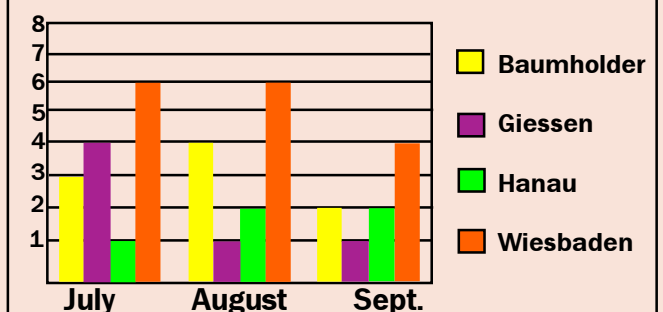
Anthrax is a deadly infection and the vaccine is an important force protection measure to combat it. In the fall of 2001, 22 cases of anthrax resulted from attacks with anthrax spores through the U.S. postal system. Five people died in the attacks.

**"The anthrax vaccine will protect our troops from another threat—a disease that will kill ..."**

The Food and Drug Administration has repeatedly found, and independent medical experts have confirmed, that the anthrax vaccine is safe and effective.

Get more information on the anthrax vaccination program at [www.vaccines.mil/or](http://www.vaccines.mil/or) [www.vaccines.mil/anthrax](http://www.vaccines.mil/anthrax). (DoD News)

### Drunken driving violations



## Soldier Show searches for talented performers

### Applications due by Dec. 29

Soldiers who can sing and dance are encouraged to audition for the 2007 Army Soldier Show.

The Army Entertainment Division is seeking singers, dancers, musicians, specialty acts and audio, lighting, video, costume and stage management technicians.

The Army Soldier Show is a highly-integrated ensemble production offering a wide range of popular music and stage spectacles. Nominations must reach the following address no later than Dec. 29: U.S. Army Soldier Show, Attn: 2007 Selection Committee, P.O. Box 439, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060.

All nominations must include:

- ◆ Name, rank, Social Security number, unit address, duty phone, email address, and area(s) of specialty for the performer and/or technician.



Photo by Susan Huseman

Sgt. Gino Nash (right) and 1st Lt. Alisha Vaughn perform "Geek in the Pink" during this summer's 2006 Soldiers Show performance in Hanau.

- ◆ Official Department of the Army photo or similar photo in uniform.
- ◆ Copy of current enlisted or officer

record brief.

Performers must submit a DVD or video cassette showing their musical styles, vocal range and special talents, with an emphasis on musical variety. Musician nominees must also submit a good quality audio tape. Technical nominees should provide a resume of experience in sound, lighting, construction, carpentry and/or stage management, with photos of any past work, if possible.

All nominees must have a minimum of 90 days time-in-service remaining after completion of the Soldier Show tour, must meet height/weight standards in accordance with

Army Regulation 600-9, and provide a copy of their most recent record of Army Physical Fitness Test (not older than six months). Profiles are examined on a case-by-case basis.

Nominees must be deployable worldwide as the Army Soldier Show will tour overseas.

Video auditions and technical reviews will be conducted in mid-January 2007 and final selectees will be confirmed by Jan. 27. Temporary duty orders will be issued and all costs will be paid by AED for travel to the final audition. Those selected will be attached to AED through Nov. 20, 2007. Those not selected will be returned to their units.

Artistic inquiries may be sent to [Victor.Hurtado@cfsc.army.mil](mailto:Victor.Hurtado@cfsc.army.mil) and military questions should be addressed to 1st Sgt. Tarron Pierce at mil 656-4937 or civ 001 (703) 806-4937. (Installation Management Agency-Europe Press Release)

## News flash

### Free military handbooks

Active duty and retired military personnel can request free electronic versions of military benefits handbooks at [www.militaryhandbooks.com](http://www.militaryhandbooks.com)

### Training facilities available

The Joint Multinational Training Command Digital Training Facilities in Baumholder and Wiesbaden offer classrooms with 16 multimedia computer workstations with Internet access and video teletraining capability. Contact the Baumholder DTF at mil 485-8290/8289, civ (06783) 6-8290 or the Wiesbaden DTF at mil 337-5074 or civ (0611) 705-5074.

### Voting assistance

Voting assistance is available to members of the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen communities by logging on to the Federal Voting Assistance website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) or by contacting the voting assistance officers in your local community: Hanau, mil 323-3001 or civ (06181) 180-3001; Giessen/Friedberg: mil 343-8996 or civ (0641) 402-8996;

Wiesbaden: mil 337-7669 or civ (0611) 705-7669; Baumholder: mil 485-6662, civ (06783) 6-6662. Soldiers needing assistance should contact their unit voting assistance officer or commander or first sergeant. (Courtesy of USAG Hessen Adjutant's Office)

### School closings, road conditions

Community members throughout the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen are advised to listen to AFN radio for the latest information on road conditions, school closings and other events triggered by inclement weather. People can also call the individual hotlines for road conditions. In Giessen call mil 343-8606, civ (0641) 402-8606; in Hanau mil 323-2661, civ (06181) 180-2661; in Wiesbaden mil 337-7245, civ (0611) 705-7245. In Baumholder call mil 485-6150, civ (06783) 6-6150. Links to the AFN website, telephone numbers and more travel and force protection information is available on the USAG Hessen home page at [www.usaghessen.eur.army.mil](http://www.usaghessen.eur.army.mil). Click on "Installation Support Services" and then "Force Protection Information."

## Selectiv Media

## Smith Elementary maintains supportive environment for students and families

By Karl Weisel  
U.S. Army Garrison Hessen  
Public Affairs Office

Single-parent households are not uncommon in a military community — especially when the majority of the Soldiers based there are deployed.

Having a robust support network in place to help families deal with the absence of a mom or dad is crucial, and that's where a focal point such as Baumholder's Smith Elementary plays such a vital role.

"It's like the anchor for so many families," said Joseph J. Caruselle, Smith Elementary School principal, describing the dedicated involvement by the school's partner unit, 1st Armored Division's Division Artillery, teachers, parents, school officials and students.

With a student population of nearly 450 students, Caruselle said more than 75 percent of them have a deployed parent.

"That has such a powerful influence on everything we do," he said, explaining that ensuring children are adjusted socially and academically plays a significant role in helping them deal with the challenges of military life.

"We're kind of like the glue that holds the community together," said Natarsha Baker, school counselor. "Military children are unique and there's always a place for them here. That sense of family that they find in the school is so important.

"Our teachers take pride in what they do. It's not just a job for them," said Baker. "It's a sense of involvement and letting the parents know we care."

Even when tragedy strikes — such as when news arrives in Baumholder that a Soldier has been injured or killed in Iraq — the school stands ready at a moment's notice to answer any crisis with counseling, crisis management teams and support.

"In a community this sensitive, we have to be more than ready to take on any challenge," said Baker, explaining that school psychologist Sharon Kieta is responsible for pulling together the school's crisis management team and alerting the district crisis management team when there is a need.

"We work to build these relationships so that the school serves as a beacon in the community," said Caruselle.

"With each child and family it differs — how well mom or the child is able to cope," said Baker. "It depends a lot on the individual person and situation. We keep our eyes open for any change in behavior of the students.

"Reintegration and homecomings can also produce other stresses," she said, explaining that school counselors will be visiting classrooms to talk to the



Photo by Susan Huseman

Second-graders at Smith Elementary School work on a reading assignment. The school plays a vital role in maintaining a support network for students and parents during the deployment.

students about the various changes that may occur in a family with the return of a long-absent parent.

While teachers and administrators dedicate themselves to ensuring Smith students are guided through the school day, parents and other volunteers contribute to the overall quality of life in the school, Baker pointed out. Events such as the recent Parent Teacher Association-sponsored Book Fair, Hispanic Heritage Month observances and a host of after-school activities help build that sense of community.

"Parents love Smith," said Baker, describing one parent who volunteered to ensure the flag was properly hoisted and taken down every day. Local Equal Opportunity advisers Sgt. 1st Class Lewis Polk, DIVARTY, and Sgt. 1st Class Hayden Julien, U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder, dedicated their time to sharing their knowledge of Hispanic Heritage with Smith students in October. "Everyone feels welcome here and they know the kids can benefit from their involvement," Baker said.

"I like to go to Smith," said Connor Harrison, age 7, while working on a drawing in Karen Stovall-Jones' second-grade class. "I like drawing class — it's very fun. I want to be an artist when I grow up."

"I like math," said fellow second-grader Ashley Acevedo, "because you can learn how to add, subtract and do multiplication. ... My teacher's cool."

Parents and Soldiers serve as mentors, tutors, Big Brothers/Sisters and provide "one-on-one structured relationships," Caruselle said, adding that parents also are playing a vital role in the school's information resource center. "When you walk into the building you get a feeling that this is a place that people want to visit."

"We always welcome more parents in the school," added Baker.

Smith Elementary School — a bright light in Baumholder.

**Focus on Smith Elementary**



## School bits

### Aukamm happenings

The Aukamm Elementary School **Tricky Tray Event** and general **PTA meeting** will be held Oct. 27 from 5:30-7:30 in the Multipurpose Room. Dinner will be served. The **Reading Counts** store will open Nov. 1. Nov. 3 is a **teacher work day** and classes will not be held. Kindergartners will not have school on Nov. 9 for a **planning day**. **Parent-teacher conferences** are Nov. 16-17 and classes will not be held.

### Ice cream party contest

All Smith Elementary School classrooms achieving 100 percent Parent Teacher Organization membership by Oct. 31 will receive an ice cream party. PTO membership is \$5 per family. Applications are available at the front office, from teachers and the PTO.

### Important dates at Giessen Middle High School

There will be no school for students on Nov. 3 for a teacher work day and Nov. 9 for parent-teacher conferences.

### College registration

University of Maryland term two registration for online and on-site courses ends Oct. 27. On-site classes run from Oct. 30 to Dec. 23.

### After-school tutors needed

Baumholder Middle High School seeks volunteer tutors in all subjects for after school tutoring from 3-4 p.m. Email [Heidi.Kretz@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:Heidi.Kretz@eu.dodea.edu) for details.

### Argonner Walkathon

Argonner Elementary School's annual Walkathon fundraiser will be Oct. 31 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Each class will have a set time to walk and parents are welcome to join their children. Students can be sponsored with a one-time monetary donation to the Parent Teacher Association. Halloween costumes are encouraged, but should be comfortable. For more information call the school at civ (06181) 906-980.

### Wetzel Elementary Book Fair

The Wetzel Elementary Book Fair will run Nov. 13-17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Family Readiness Group building. A special family event Nov. 14 from 5-7 p.m. includes raffles, giveaways and discounts.

### School holidays

Schools will be closed Nov. 10 for Veterans Day and Nov. 23-24 for Thanksgiving. Christmas vacation starts Dec. 25 with instruction resuming on Jan. 8. Schools also close Jan. 15 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Feb. 19 for Presidents Day, April 9-13 for spring recess and May 28 for Memorial Day.

### Wetzel parent publishing

Parent volunteers are needed to help with writing projects and the parent publishing program at Wetzel Elementary School. There is a play area in the Parent Room and your small children and infants are welcome to come with you. Contact the school at mil 485-7492 or civ (06783) 67 492.